

provide guidance on where they can seek shelter and food. It is times like these that we all need to rally around our fellow Missourians. The Zimmer Radio Group has led the way by setting a premier example of what disaster relief really means. In the wake of such a tremendous disaster, Zimmer has stepped up to the challenge and continued to help people in need of finding relief.

As fellow citizens we are all called to help one another in times of need. We take for granted the things we have, until we have lost them. Things like food, water, and shelter have become such a routine part of life, that when they are stolen from us, we are at the mercy of our fellow man. I urge all of us to lend a hand and assist those who have been affected by this tragedy.

As a friend, American, and Missourian, my thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Joplin and the state of Missouri who have fallen victim to such powerful forces of nature that have swept across our great state. I encourage those who are able, to assist people who have lost their homes, and I pray that those who have lost loved ones find comfort and relief in the days and weeks to come.

A TRIBUTE TO NATHAN HIDAJAT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nathan Hidajat. Nathan, a second grader from Ames, Iowa, was recently selected as one of 40 regional finalists out of 107,000 entries submitted to Google's nationwide "Doodle 4 Google" competition.

The competition's theme, "What I'd like to do someday . . .", challenged all 107,000 entries to uniquely describe how they will spend their days in the future. However, Nathan's humbling idea for Google focuses on helping others around the world. Nathan's dream: To raise money for clean water in developing nations.

After viewing a video from a non-profit charity earlier in the year about the lasting effects of contaminated water around the world, Nathan organized a drive to help raise money to assist the efforts. Shortly after, Nathan heard about the "Doodle 4 Google" competition and saw this as a way to further expand his efforts by drawing a picture depicting a story about clean water in the world intertwined with the famous Google logo.

All 40 finalists have now been invited to New York City, where the national winner will be announced. The champion will win a \$15,000 college scholarship and a \$25,000 technology grant for his or her school.

I wish to commend Nathan on his artistic talents and desire to make the world a better place for those who are the most vulnerable. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating Nathan in being chosen as a top 40 finalist in this competition. It is an honor to have Nathan in my district, and I wish him the best of luck as the competition moves forward.

INTRODUCING THE "TAX PARITY FOR HEALTH PLAN BENEFICIARIES ACT"

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, one of the fundamental principles of our tax system is that similar taxpayers are taxed the same. Confidence in our tax system depends on the fair and equitable treatment of our citizens and businesses.

Today, I am re-introducing the "Tax Parity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act"—a bill that will correct a disparity in the tax code that results in unfair taxes on American businesses and their employees.

More than 80 percent of America's most successful companies extend health plan benefits to the domestic partners or non-spouse dependents of their employees. These companies are, in increasing numbers, making the right business decision to make their health plans more inclusive of the diversity in their employees. American businesses understand that by providing their employees with health security on an equitable basis helps them attract and retain the best people, and in doing so, have surpassed the government in the pursuit of equality.

Unfortunately, being ahead comes at a cost. On average, a worker who receives these extended benefits pays \$2,000 more in federal taxes than their married co-workers. Also, businesses must pay additional payroll taxes for deciding to provide their employees with equal benefits.

In the past, the federal government has led America when it comes to equal treatment under the law. On this issue, the federal government has fallen behind. We owe it to the American people to fix the tax code, so that the American people and their businesses can be sure that their government is still committed to ensuring equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be introducing this bill with colleagues from both sides of the aisle. This highlights the importance of correcting this wrong in existing tax law.

A TRIBUTE TO JACOB HEATWOLE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jacob Franklyn Heatwole for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Jacob's project was to assist in rebuilding a retaining wall at the Emergency Food Box in his hometown of Marshalltown.

Jacob has proudly represented Troop 310 of Marshalltown for more than five years. To date Jacob has earned nearly 30 Merit Badges as well as attended the 2010 National Scout Jamboree.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Jacob and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on achieving an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 372, I was absent due to unforeseen circumstances. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 372 was a vote on the Cravaack of Minnesota Amendment No. 152 to H.R. 1540, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. This amendment will completely eliminate the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). While I believe spending cuts within our defense budget are necessary, I also believe that those cuts must be smart and targeted.

The United States Institute of Peace—created by Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan—is the only independent U.S. government actor that is dedicated solely to conflict prevention and resolution. USIP produces timely expert analysis on issues critical to policymakers and conflict prevention practitioners. In early February 2011, USIP published a "PEACE Report" on the political stalemate in Côte d'Ivoire following the November 28, 2010 election and the broader issue of preventing electoral violence in Africa. The elimination of USIP will have strong, adverse impact on America's security interests. USIP is an important national security actor. The U.S. government must have options for resolving international conflict other than military action.

USIP is the critical bridge between governmental and non-governmental actors to promote peace in volatile conflicts. USIP's Center for Mediation and Conflict Resolution conducts work in a number of critical conflict zones in Africa, Middle East, and across the globe. In the Arab-Israeli conflict, USIP is addressing a series of challenges and opportunities facing the parties. USIP has been focusing on the capacity of the Israeli and Palestinian publics to build consensus and support for a negotiated agreement, and the role of U.S. policymakers in encouraging and supporting these efforts toward a peaceful resolution.

USIP is also dealing with several issues in Nigeria, a country rife with conflicts over petroleum resources and religion. Amidst this situation, USIP is working on peace efforts for the Niger Delta region, including working collaboratively with local governments, oil companies, and Nigerian NGOs.

For nearly two decades, the USIP has been working in Sudan on peace processes. Its knowledge and expertise has helped shape

the environment that has contributed, so far, to a relatively peaceful outcome of the referendum. USIP's work on prevention, power-sharing, constitutional reform and natural resources has made a critical difference in the country's local capacity.

In addition, USIP has been able to contribute to the successful mitigation of violence in Kenya, due to its longstanding relationships with influential and highly skilled civil society activists and its reputation as an independent and unbiased party. USIP has the ability to act fast, responding, for example, to the unforeseen electoral violence crisis in 2007 with targeted assistance to a local group in time to make a difference. USIP is now working toward contributing to a peaceful election in 2012.

USIP is a small, agile center of innovation in support of America's national security interests in supporting peace and democracy in Africa and across the globe. USIP has been a very useful resource to policymakers for decades. Therefore, eliminating this critical institution abolishes a cost-effective alternative to military forces.

A TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS EDWARD MAHER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nicholas Edward Maher for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Nicholas and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on achieving an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF RECENT GRADUATE PAUL WILLIAM KOHAN FROM THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul William Kohan of New Hartford, NY. Paul was diagnosed with dyslexia in the first grade, and has since then proved

what a motivated and intelligent young man he has become despite this obstacle.

While Paul's friends and family feared his future might be impeded because of his disability, he has excelled both academically and beyond, far exceeding expectations for students with dyslexia.

Paul recently graduated from the State University of New York College at Brockport with a Bachelor of Science in sociology degree. Paul's accomplishment is particularly admirable given the fact that a mere 18 percent of persons with dyslexia typically graduate from college. In addition to Paul's impressive graduation, he also plans to pursue a career as a legal disability advocate.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Paul Kohan for his scholastic achievements displayed through his college graduation and inspiring career plans for the future.

A TRIBUTE TO GREGORY GEOFFROY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Gregory Geoffroy, president of Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Born on July 8, 1946 in Honolulu, Hawaii, Gregory earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Louisville in 1968. After a year serving as an officer in the United States Navy, Gregory went on to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology in 1974. Over the next 30 years, Gregory published over 200 research articles, co-authored a book, and presented more than 200 lectures both in the United States and abroad. Gregory also served in various academic and administrative positions at Penn State University and the University of Maryland during that time.

Gregory was appointed president of Iowa State University in July 2001. His tenure has resulted in a number of accomplishments including the establishment of the Bioeconomy Institute, whose goal is to promote and advance biorenewable technologies. Gregory set a fundraising record with Campaign Iowa State, which recently surpassed its goal of collecting \$800 million. Under his guidance, the university has received a record amount of money in grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. In the 2009–2010 fiscal year alone, the university received \$388.2 million. Gregory has also succeeded in doubling the number of endowed faculty positions, and he has seen student enrollment grow to record numbers—28,682 in the fall of 2010.

Gregory will certainly be missed on the Iowa State University campus. He will be remembered by students as being easy to relate to, accessible, and visible at university events. He will be remembered by faculty for his communication skills and management style that brought out the best in those around him. Gregory will be remembered by community leaders and business members for his efforts to build and improve direct relationships between the academic world and the business world. More than anything, however, Gregory

will be remembered for making Iowa State an admirable university with a cutting-edge reputation both in Iowa and around the world.

I thank Gregory Geoffroy for his many years of service to the students and employees of Iowa State University. It is an honor to be his representative, and I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL J. WIEDORFER

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Paul J. Wiedorfer, Maryland's last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient. Mr. Wiedorfer passed away on May 25th at the Baltimore VA Medical Center. He was 90 years old.

Paul, the son of a German immigrant, was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1921. He attended St. Andrew's School and went on to graduate from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. He worked for Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. as an apprentice power station operator, until he enlisted in the Army in 1943.

Serving in a unit from General George Patton's 3rd Army, he experienced his first day of combat during the Battle of the Bulge on December 25, 1944. On that Christmas Day in an operation near Chaumont, Belgium, his company was ambushed. In the fight that ensued, Mr. Wiedorfer darted across an open field of enemy fire and single-handedly destroyed two German machine gun nests, while taking several prisoners. Amazingly, he was unharmed. That same afternoon he was given a battlefield promotion to sergeant.

On February 10, 1945, while crossing the Saar River in Germany, Mr. Wiedorfer was seriously injured when mortar shrapnel tore into his stomach and broke his left leg and two right fingers. While recuperating at hospital, in England, one of the other patients informed Mr. Wiedorfer that the newspaper Stars and Stripes was reporting he would receive the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in Belgium. Mr. Wiedorfer later told the Baltimore Sun "To be perfectly honest, I wasn't really sure what the hell [the Medal of Honor] was because all I was, was some dogface guy in the infantry."

Mr. Wiedorfer spent more than three years in the hospital recovering from his wounds. He was discharged from the Army in 1947, having reached the rank of master sergeant. His other decorations included the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He returned to his life and job in Baltimore and retired in 1981. Paul and his wife, the former Alice Stauffer, had four children: Nancy Mazer, who passed in 2010, Gary Wiedorfer of Cocoa, Florida, and Randee Wiedorfer and Paul J. Wiedorfer Jr., who both currently reside in the Congressional District I represent.

Mr. Wiedorfer led a fulfilled life. I would like to take this moment to thank him for his service to the United States, and to pass along my condolences to his proud family. He was a true American patriot and a Baltimore treasure.